

**REMARKS**

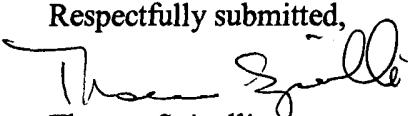
It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, non-elected claims 29 and 30 from the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/829,845, have been amended and the remaining claims have been canceled.

Furthermore, by means of the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to cross reference the parent application.

In view of the above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas Spinelli  
Registration No. 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser  
400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

TS/cm